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DEGREE RITUAL

OF THE

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF SAINT LUKE,

CONTAINING THE

RULES, REGULATIONS,

AND

CEREMONIES OF DEGREES.



38353-Z

Revised and compiled, by order of the R. W. G. Council,
I. O. of St. Luke, of Virginia,

BY

W. M. T. FORRESTER, R. W. G. Secretary,

1894.

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[*Degree Council Chamber Form.*]

P. W. C's. [East.] P. W. C's.

DEGREE CHIEF.

(Three Desk. Lights.)

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TREASURER.

Desk.

SECRETARY.

Desk.

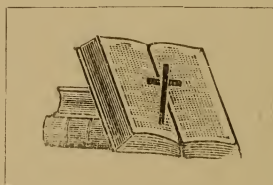
SENIOR CONDUCTOR.

JUNIOR CONDUCTOR.

(Altar.)

Members.

Five



Lights.)

Members. [South.]
Vice-Chief.

CHAPLAIN.

KEEPER OF
WARDROBE.

Members.

Desk.

Members.

W. FATHER.

[West.]

INSIDE SENTINEL.

OUTSIDE SENTINEL.

RULES, REGULATIONS, AND CEREMONIES

OF THE

DEGREE COUNCIL

OF THE

Independent Order of St. Luke.

RULE 1. Degree Councils of Instruction shall be held in each Subordinate Council once a month for conferring degrees upon such members as shall make application for the same, and to communicate such information as will make the members proficient in the words, signs, and grips of such degrees as they may have received.

RULE 2. The first Past Worthy Chief of every Council of this Order shall hold the Degree Rituals for twelve months or one term after which the Degree Chiefs shall be elected annually by the Councils, the elections to be held in the month of September. The Degree Chief shall be subject to all the laws, rules, and regulations as other members. In case of vacancy of this office, by death or otherwise, the work shall be held by the second Past Chief, if competent ; if not, then the Council shall decide from their number of Past Chiefs who shall hold it; the same to be elected by ballot as provided in the General Laws of the Order.

RULE 3—*Section 1.* The degrees of the Subordinate Councils of the Independent Order of St. Luke shall be conferred upon all members who are found to be worthy and qualified to receive them, upon their application for the same.

Section 2. The degrees of the Past Chiefs' Council shall be three in number, and under the supervision of the R. W. G. Council.

RULE 4. The Past Worthy Chief holding the Degree Ritual shall preside over the Degree Council, and shall ask such assistance as he or she may need from time to time, and confer the several degrees upon all worthy members upon their making application and paying for the same. Any member may receive all six of the degrees at any one meeting ; provided he or she complies with all the rules and regulations hereinafter mentioned.

RULE 5. The price for conferring the several subordinate degrees shall be twenty-five cents each, the same to be paid to the Degree Chief before conferring the said degrees, and he shall report the names of members degreed, and pay the amount collected into the treasury of the Council at its next regular meeting. But in no case shall the Degree Chief of one Council confer the degrees of this Order on a member of another Council of good standing whose Degree Chief holds the Degree Ritual lawfully, without first obtaining said member's Degree Chief's consent.

QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS OF A COUNCIL.

RULE 6. The Worthy Chief, Vice-Chief, Worthy Father, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer must be in possession of the sixth degree before his or her installation, and members elected to other offices in the subordinate Council must be in possession of the third degree before being installed.

In all cases where new Councils are formed the Worthy

Chief, Vice-Chief, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer must be in possession of the Past Chief's Degree before they can be qualified to act, and in all cases the Worthy Father must be strictly moral.

WORKING REGALIA.

RULE 7. The working regalia for officers and members shall be the same in colors as their dress regalia. The private members' working regalia of this Order shall be as follows: Male members—white collar, trimmed with white braid, and a white apron with red cross in centre; apron trimmed with white braid. Female members—white collar, trimmed with white braid, and a white ivory cross suspended around the neck with scarlet ribbon. Past Worthy Chiefs—a gilt cross about neck with purple ribbon.

Section 2. Every Council shall provide themselves with a Bible, a wooden cross twelve inches in length, two candle-sticks (one made to hold three candles, and the other made to hold five candles); and all other necessary working regalia and initiation implements for the Degree Council—the same to be placed in charge of their Degree Chief, who shall be responsible for the safe-keeping of the same during his or her term of office.

OFFICERS' DRESS REGALIA.

RULE 8. *Worthy Chief.*—Scarlet collar and apron; on left breast of collar gold embroidered crossed gavels, gold star above and below. On the right side three gold stars; collar joined with a sixth-degree rosette. On flap of apron, All-seeing eye, in centre a red cross, bordered with gold; trimmings gold fringe and lace.

Vice-Chief's Dress.—Collar and apron blue; on left breast of collar single gavel, silver embroidered; sixth-degree rosette at intersection of collar; trimmings silver.

R. S.—Crossed pens.

F. S.—Single pen.

Treasurer.—Crossed keys.

I. S.—Single sword.

O. S.—Crossed swords.

Collars and aprons for the above, blue; rosettes, white, purple, red, and blue; on flap of apron, All-seeing eye, in the centre a red cross bordered with silver; silver trimmings.

Senior Conductor.—Crossed staffs.

Junior Conductor.—Single staff, silver embroidered, on collar; apron and collar, white; All-seeing eye on flap of apron, in centre a cross; rosette, white, purple, red, and blue; trimmings blue and silver.

Chaplain.—Apron and collar black; on the left breast open Bible; on the right breast, three stars; on flap of apron, All-seeing eye, in centre a cross; silver trimmings.

Keeper of Wardrobe.—Apron and collar, brown; on left breast a box with key laying on it crosswise; rosette as above; silver trimmings.

Worthy Father.—Black collar; red cross, bordered with silver on left breast; rosette as above; trimmings silver.

Past Worthy Chief.—Purple collar, with red cross bordered with gold on left breast; purple rosette at intersection.

The following jewels may be worn in addition to the regalia by the acting officers of Councils, suspended

around the neck, with ribbon according to the color of the regalia:

P. W. C.—Gold cross; purple ribbon.

W. C.—Crossed gavels; gilt metal.

V.-C.—Single gavel; silver metal.

R. S.—Crossed pens; silver metal.

F. S.—Single pen; silver metal.

Treasurer.—Crossed keys; silver metal.

O. S.—Crossed swords; silver metal.

I. S.—Single sword; silver metal.

S. C.—Crossed staffs; silver metal.

J. C.—Single staff; silver metal.

Chaplain.—Open Bible; silver metal.

K. of W.—Box, with a key laying on it crosswise.

W. F.—A cross; silver metal.

Nothing herein contained shall prevent sisters from wearing dress collars, except on public and funeral occasions.

On public occasions, rosettes indicating their highest degree may be worn on left breast, also a cross suspended around the neck with scarlet ribbon.

On funeral occasions, rosettes as above, covered with crape, cross suspended around the neck with black ribbon.

Jewels indicating rank of office may be worn by sisters in centre of rosette.

DRESS REGALIA FOR MEMBERS.

RULE 9. Dress regalia for brothers shall consist of white satin collars and white aprons, with the emblems of the Order thereon, trimmed according to degree with satin ribbon.

Dress for sisters, white satin collars only, trimmed according to degree with satin ribbon.

DRESS REGALIA FOR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

RULE 10. As a mark of distinction members of this Order shall wear on their working and dress regalia, for private and public use, the color of the highest degree which they have received.

The following color of rosettes, displaying the color of the degree to which a member has advanced, shall be worn at the intersection of the collar :

First Degree.—White satin ribbon rosette; in centre, silver star.

Second Degree.—White and purple satin ribbon rosette; silver star.

Third Degree.—White, purple, red, and blue satin ribbon rosette; silver star.

Fourth Degree.—Black and scarlet satin ribbon rosette; silver star.

Fifth Degree.—Purple and pink satin ribbon rosette; silver star.

Sixth Degree.—Purple, black, and scarlet satin ribbon rosette; silver star.

Past Worthy Chiefs.—Purple satin rosette, with gold star in centre.

FIRST DEGREE.

The Senior Conductor having conducted the candidate to the altar according to form in Council Ritual, and having caused him to kneel for obligation, will say :

Respected Degree Chief, the candidate is at the altar and awaits your forthcoming to be obligated and to be

received into the mysteries of the first degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

The Degree Chief will advance towards the altar, and calling the candidate by name, will say :

Please place your right hand upon the Holy Bible, raise your left hand towards heaven, and repeat the following after me :

I, A B, do sincerely promise and swear, with my right hand upon the Holy Bible, to maintain and support the Independent Order of St. Luke, its objects and its laws, rules, regulations, and ceremonies.

I also solemnly swear that I will be true and faithful to the Christian religion. I will devote my leisure time to searching the Holy Scriptures, so that I may learn to become useful and true to all mankind, but more especially to a brother or sister of this Order wherever found. I also promise to obey all laws, rules, and regulations of the Right Worthy Grand Council of the Independent Order of St. Luke, and this Council or whatever Council I may hereafter become a member of ; also the rules and regulations of this degree. I also promise to obey all officers. I swear and promise that I will not in any way reveal anything pertaining to this Order or to this degree, that I have or may hereafter learn, to any person or persons whomsoever they may be, except it be to a true and lawful brother of the same, and not unto him or her until duly proven by the proper sign and word.

I also promise to obey all summonses in any way conveyed to me by a brother or sister of this Order. I swear that I will never assist in an initiation or in giving this degree without the consent of the officers of this or the R. W. G. Council, and I promise that I will give

them warning of anything that may bring reproach or disgrace upon this Order; and should this Council, from any cause, cease to exist, I hereby promise to use all efforts to have the charter and rituals returned to the R. W. G. Council.

If ever I should violate the same I hope to be driven from their presence and the same death or punishment be inflicted on me that befell the traitor Judas for the betrayal of his blessed Master. God keep me steadfast to this my solemn oath and obligation as a Saint Luke. (Kiss the book once.)

The Degree Chief will now address the candidates as follows :

My brother (or sister, as the case may be), during the progress of your initiation you have come in contact with three individuals, and no doubt you are at a loss to know why one of these had Flowers, another Water, and another Alms.

Allow me to inform you that these represented the principles of our Order. The Flowers represented Love, the vessel of Water represented Purity. The distribution of Alms and Provisions represents Charity, and at the same time it is intended to teach you the lesson, never turn the poor and needy away without rendering them whatever assistance that may be in your power.

Here you behold the Holy Bible. This is our chart, to govern our actions through life. You have promised that in your leisure moments you will search the Holy Bible. If this promise is carried into effect, by faithful adherence to its holy precepts you will thereby acquire that pure and perfect peace which will subdue all human pride, selfishness, and self-assertion, and then and there

put away all thoughts of wrath and vengeance to make room for the Lord's love and meekness which finally will give you an acceptable admittance into that heavenly temple, to dwell with Him whose love endureth forever.

This cross is the emblem of our Order ; it also represents the cross upon which our Blessed Savior was crucified, and who says in this Holy Book : " If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

The five burning lights here represent Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Peter.

The three burning lights in the east represent the Worthy Chief, Vice-Chief, and Secretary, without whose presence and unity of action it is impossible for a Council to exist and conduct its business.

I will now proceed to put you in possession of the signs and pass-word of the first degree.

First Sign.—Stretch the left arm out horizontally, with the fore and second fingers separated (or representing shears), with the thumb touching the little finger.

Second Sign.—The second sign is made by holding a cord or line in the left hand, and winding it around the fingers of the same with the right hand.

This sign is to remind us that life's cord is being rapidly wound every hour, and while we exist we should remember that the span of life is short, and should be well spent.

Third Sign.—Place the right hand under the left arm, with left arm close to left side. This represents the carrying of the Book of Records in which is supposed to be the doings of man's life.

The grip is given by taking hold of each other's left

hand, with thumbs resting on the second joints of the third finger, and, looking full in the face, shake hands in a friendly manner.

The Degree Chief pronounces the word Helena.

The candidate answers with the word Constantine.

Degree Chief.—Bianca.

Candidate.—Arabella.

Pass-word.—Adam.

This ends the first degree.

RECOGNITION WORD.

To attract the attention of a St. Luke at night or in a place where the signs and words cannot be used, the following must be used:

A.—How dependent are we.

B.—Life is short.

A.—Truly it is so, and should be well spent.

B.—Where have you dwelled?

A.—Under the protection of (here state the name, number, and location of your Council).

B.—Give me your word.

A.—(Here give the last pass-word which you have received, and state the facts in your case of distress.)

N. B.—Under no circumstances will a Council or member of this Order be allowed to shield in crime, or for violating any of the laws of the State, church, or Order, by the use of the signs or words.

SECOND DEGREE.

The second degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke shall be presided over by the Degree Chief, with the assistance of such other Past Worthy Chiefs as the Council or the Degree Chief may designate.

Dress as in former degree. The Council Chamber represents the hall of Mt. Carmel.

The Degree Chief gives one rap with the gavel, when all shall be seated.

The officers shall consist of a Degree and Deputy Degree Chief, a Recording Secretary, Outside and Inside Sentinel, a Junior and Senior Conductor, and Chaplain, all of whom must be Past Worthy Chiefs.

The Degree Chief gives two raps with the gavel, when all present will rise and sing opening ode :

OPENING ODE.

Come, brothers, let us all unite
 [Or sisters, as the case may be.]
 To stay the hurtful tide ;
 Against the world we'll bravely fight,
 And spread our Order wide.

Where'er the sun in radiance beams,
 Or man yet suffers woe,
 Our Order shall send forth its streams
 Till o'er the world they flow.

Read the seventy-seventh, seventy-eighth, and seventy-ninth verses of the second chapter of St. Luke.
 Prayer.

INITIATION.

D. C.—Worthy Senior Conductor, are there any candidates to be initiated into the mysteries of the second degree?

The Senior Conductor, after saluting the Chair, retires to the ante-room, ascertains, returns, and reports, if any, as follows:

Con.—Respected Degree Chief, there are waiting (here state number of candidates and their names) who desire to be initiated in the mysteries of the second degree of our Order.

D. C.—Worthy Recorder, are the candidates worthy to enjoy this favor? Have they been balloted for and elected?

The Worthy Recorder, having examined the record, answers: Respected Degree Chief, they have been found worthy and duly elected (or else, as the case may be).

D. C.—You will retire and prepare them for the rites of initiation of the second degree. The Worthy Conductor will bear you company.

While in the ante-room the Conductor will question the candidate as follows:

Con.—Are you desirous of being admitted into the mysteries of the second degree of our Order?

Can.—I am.

Con.—Are you willing to take the solemn obligation to keep secret the forms, ceremonies, words, and other private business of the degree into which you now request to be admitted?

Can.—I am.

If all the answers are in the affirmative, the Senior Conductor blindfolds the candidate and gives two raps at

the door, when the Inside Sentinel reports to the Degree Chief that there is a strange alarm at the door of the Council Chamber.

The Degree Chief instructs the Inside Sentinel to ascertain the cause of the strange alarm, upon which the Inside Sentinel advances to the door, gives two raps, and asks, Who comes there?

S. C.—A brother (or sister, as the case may be) with candidates seeking for admission to the mysteries of the second degree.

I. S.—Have you satisfied yourself of his fitness.

S. C.—I have.

I. S.—I will report your wishes to the Degree Chief.

I. S.—Respected Degree Chief, the Senior Conductor seeks permission to introduce a candidate (or a number, as the case may be) to the mysteries of the second degree of our Order.

D. C.—Are they worthy?

Jun. Con.—They are so reported.

D. C.—Admit them.

The Inside Sentinel receives the pass-word from the Senior Conductor, opens the door when the Senior Conductor enters, followed by the candidates and the Recorder, who passes to his or her chair. The candidate is dressed in a torn robe and hat. (Handle roughly but not severely.)

At the entrance of the candidates the Degree Chief gives two raps, when all the members rise and unite in singing (during which time the candidate is conducted twice around the room)—

I'm a pilgrim, I'm a stranger,
 I can tarry, I can tarry but a night.
 Do not detain me, for I am going
 To where the fountains are ever flowing.
 I'm a pilgrim, I'm a stranger,
 I can tarry, I can tarry but a night.

There the glory is ever shining;
 O, my longing heart, my longing heart is there.
 Here in this country, so dark and dreary,
 I long have wandered forlorn and weary.
 I'm a pilgrim, I'm a stranger,
 I can tarry, I can tarry but a night.

At the conclusion of the singing the candidates are conducted to the front of the altar, when they are accosted by the Degree Chief, who asks: What are your desires?

The candidate answers: To assist you in your work.

When the reply is made known, all the members rise by command of the Degree Chief, and proceed to give the candidate this degree.

The Degree Chief causes the candidates to kneel upon both knees, their hands placed on the Holy Bible in a transverse position, holding the cross between the same.

The Degree Chief, calling them by name, and saying: In accordance with your request, I will now proceed to confer upon you the second degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

You will please pronounce your name in full, and say after me: I, A B, solemnly swear with hands on the Holy Bible and this holy relic, to be a strict observer of the rules and regulations of this degree, to administer aid and relief to the sick and distressed wherever I may find

them, but particularly to a brother or sister of this Order. I furthermore promise to obey all the laws, rules, and regulations of this Council or whatever Council I may hereafter become a member of; also the laws, rules, and regulations of the Right Worthy Grand Council, and in no way allow them to be violated, if in my power to prevent it. This do I solemnly swear in the hope of heaven and the fear of hell. God help me to be steadfast to keep and perform this obligation.

(Kiss the book twice.)

The candidate is raised by two members of the degree, when the Degree Chief presents him or her with a piece of bread, and says, Eat this; then presenting the candidate with a cup of water, saying, Drink this, my brother (or sister); God speed you on your journey. The candidate is then conducted to the ante-room, and there bid to wait further orders of the Degree Chief. After everything has been removed or deposited in their proper places the Senior Conductor re-enters with the candidate, while the members rise and sing:

S. M.

Come ye that love the Lord,
And let your joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround His throne.

Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry;
We are marching through Immanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high.

After singing, the Degree Chief will address the candidates as follows:

My brothers (or sisters), you may think that the members were disposed to make merriment over your initiation into the mysteries of the second degree, but allow me to assure you that such was not the case; the bread and water which you partook of at our hands were emblematic of the early Christians partaking of refreshments at the hands of their friends during their long and wearied travelling in search of the Holy Land.

You, no doubt, are aware what hardships they encountered on their journey: not only privation, hunger, and burning thirsts, but some of them suffered cruel deaths at the hands of their persecutors.

Let this remind you to be ever ready to render assistance to the needy and sympathy to distressed humanity, and more especially to a brother or sister of this Order.

To prove that you have received the second degree, I will give you the sign, grip, and pass-word of the same.

Sign.—Holding up the first three fingers of the left hand, the fourth finger covering the thumb-nail of the same, repeat the words, “The Lord is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

Grip and Pass-word.—The grip is given by taking each other by the forefinger of the left hand. One says Matthew, the other Mark, shaking hands twice. Pass-word, Hobah. All present say, Welcome, brother (or sister), to the second degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

The Council is closed by each member forming a circle and singing—

A charge to keep I have,
 A God to glorify;
 A never-dying soul to save,
 And fit it for the sky.

Help me to watch and pray,
 And on Thyself rely,
 Assured if I my trust betray,
 I shall forever die.

Benediction by the Chaplain, when every member present will bow and say, His name be praised forever and ever. Amen, Amen.

The end of the second degree.

THIRD DEGREE.

The Council of the third degree shall consist of the following officers:

Degree Chief, Assistant Degree Chief, Chaplain, Recording Secretary, Senior Conductor, Junior Conductor, Outside Sentinel, and Inside Sentinel.

The Council of the third degree shall be arranged so as to represent the city of Jerusalem. Painted curtains or veils made of black or green, and evergreen in boxes in which the cross is placed should be used, and boards or any other more convenient articles should be made to represent the roadway leading to and around the hills about Jerusalem.

In no case shall a member while conferring this or any other degree of this Order act harsh toward, or do the candidate any bodily injury.

FORM FOR OPENING THE THIRD DEGREE COUNCIL.

The Degree Chief assumes the station, and gives several raps with the gavel, calling the members present to order, after which he will say : Officers, please take your stations, and assist me in instructing the candidates in the third degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

The members respond : We will assist you.

D. C.—Junior Conductor, you will please prove all present by the pass-word of the third degree.

After examining all present, the Junior will report the result of the examination to the Degree Chief.

If there be any member present without the pass-word, then some other member present who knows that the member in question has received the third degree, may vouch for the member, but in no case shall this be done upon hearsay. A member vouching for another must know beyond a doubt that such a person has received the degree in question, and unless this proof is established, the member must be excused from the Council.

After all members present have been proven, the Degree Chief will give three raps, when all will rise and unite in singing the following or some other appropriate hymn—

C. M.

Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
 And all the world go free?
 I know there's a cross for every one,
 And there's a cross for me.

We'll bear the consecrated cross,
 Till by the cross set free ;
 And then go home to wear the crown,
 O, there's a crown for me.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

D. C.—Senior Conductor, as we are about to proceed with our journey in the third degree, I will thank you to repair to the ante-room, and see if there are any pilgrims desiring to journey with us toward Jerusalem.

The Senior Conductor retires, and after the candidates have satisfied him that they are fully qualified, shall attire them in pilgrim's dress, blindfold them, and alarm the Council door by giving three raps.

I. S.—Respected Degree Chief, as we are about to journey towards Jerusalem, we discover the approach of strangers in search of the cross.

The Degree Chief gives three raps with the gavel, when all members present will rise.

D. C.—Inside Sentinel, you will warn these strangers of the difficulties and dangers which may be encountered while travelling on to Jerusalem, and if they are willing to journey with us, they have my consent to proceed.

I. S.—Traveller, before allowing you to journey with us, I feel it my duty to warn you of the dangers and cruelties which may be inflicted upon you by the infidels, and to inform you that nearly every unguarded traveller along this lonesome road has been exposed to plunder, and some have met their deaths at the hands of these enemies.

S. C.—(Answer for candidate.)

Fellow-traveller, I have heard of these things, but I desire to volunteer in service for the cause of love, purity, and charity, striving to relieve my fellow-man of at least some of the sorrows of this life, by rendering assistance in the hours of sickness, pain, and distress, and help to bear the cross, and become more useful in the elevation of mankind.

The Council will here unite in singing—

C. M.

Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb ;
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name ?

Sure I must fight if I would reign ;
Increase my courage, Lord ;
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy word.

I. S.—Pilgrim, since this appears to be your determination, you are at liberty to proceed with us.

During the singing, the Senior Conductor enters with the candidate, and passes directly to the Degree Chief's station, and after the singing, the Senior Conductor addresses the Degree Chief as follows: Respected Degree Chief, while journeying on our pilgrimage to Jerusalem in search of the cross, we found this pilgrim journeying in the same direction, and on being assured of his (or her) willingness, we have given the pilgrim our permission to travel with us, and he now stands before you for enlightenment in the mysteries of the third degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

D. C.—Pilgrim through the pathway of this uncertain life, amid the joys and sorrows of the human family, it matters not how widely we may differ in our opinions or religious creeds, whether in the enjoyment of wealth or in the humblest station of poverty, we are cognizant of the fact that we are all dependent creatures, subject to disappointment, sickness, sorrow, pain, and death. Under these circumstances we have always found love

and charity in the hearts of mankind to soothe these afflictions; but these remedies are not attained without some labor or expense on the part of some one, and, in consenting to become a volunteer in this cause, you may have to undergo the same ordeal as did the early patron upon whom this Order is founded—the beloved physician, St. Luke, and the steadfast friend, the Apostle St. Paul.

You must, therefore, exemplify the same patience and endurance which it is claimed the saint expressed, Helena, the mother of Constantine, possessed, as well as have been exercised by all pilgrims who have preceded you in this degree.

In the first degree, when you entered you were guarded, supported, and protected.

Upon this occasion (like your journey) you will realize the daily lesson of life. Our pathways are not always strewn with flowers, peace, and affection; neither will you find the outstretched hand to help you. You may find the road rough and rugged, and you may meet with disappointment and mistrust. You must expect to find these things in this life. This is an hour of trial. You will find no friendly hand extended, or kind advice given you on which to lean. This is one of the times that self-reliance must be exerted. You must seek to find the emblem of the cross, with patience and unceasing energy as it is claimed Helena possessed in searching for the cross of Calvary.

Hymn—

At the cross.

(The candidate must find the cross, after which remove the blindfold, and conduct the candidate to the altar.)

The Degree Chief here requests the candidate to kneel,

with his right hand upon his heart and his left upon the Bible, opened at the sixth chapter of Luke, and take the following oath and obligation, the candidate to repeat the following after the Degree Chief :

I, A B, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, in the presence of Almighty God and all the members of the third degree here assembled, and by the names of the four Apostles—Matthew, Mark, John, and Peter—and in addition to all my former obligations, that I will keep secret all signs, pass-words, and the grip of this degree. I will not make known the working thereof, and I promise that I will not reveal any of the business of this degree to any person or persons whomsoever, except it be to a lawful member of the same, and then to those whom I shall know to be the same.

I will obey all the laws, rules, and regulations of the R. W. G. Council and this Council governing this degree and the workings of the Order. I furthermore promise to obey, support, protect, and defend the Protestant faith, the Christian religion, and the rules and edicts of the Holy Bible, and I will at all times remonstrate with my friends if they should at any time apostatize the religion of the true doctrines of Christ.

I hereby promise to support, encourage, patronize, protect, and defend the character of a member of this Order and this degree. I promise never to be engaged in slandering a member of this Order or family of a member; that I will never wrong a member or his family, or allow the same to be done, if in my power to prevent; that I will never allow any danger, distress, or loss to befall a member without giving information of the same.

All of this I swear and promise to obey, or suffer the

penalty that the laws of this Council or the Order may inflict.

D. C.—Pilgrim, remove your hands and kiss the sacred volume that lays before you. Give me your left hand, that I may assist you to arise, with renewed zeal to act agreeably to your obligation and our usage.

The Senior Conductor will pass out with the candidate to the ante-room and remove the pilgrim dress of the candidate, during which time the Junior Conductor, with the assistance of other members, will restore the Council chamber to its usual appearance.

The Senior Conductor re-enters with the candidate, when the Degree Chief will explain the history of the degree, and give the signs, words, and grip.

HISTORY OF THE DEGREE.

Helena, the mother of Constantine, it is said, travelled through Jerusalem with her niece Arabella, who was afflicted with the palsy in the right side, hoping to find the cross upon which our blessed Savior died.

She was shown the spot where he was crucified with the two thieves. Having dug down the hills and levelled the hillocks in search of the true cross, after considerable search she found the first cross, which she caused her niece to touch, but to no effect; the second being found, with no better success; the third cross was then found, which she touched, and it restored her to perfect health. This, then, must have been the true cross.

In grateful acknowledgment Helena then knelt and offered prayer to God, saying, O Lord, in Thee do I put my trust; let me never be confounded.

She built a church on the spot where the cross was found, one hundred and fifty spaces long, twenty-six wide, and sixty-two in height, and gave the name of the church "Hospitality."

I trust that you will always prove worthy of the respect and confidence reposed in you as a Saint Luke.

Your duty to yourself requires that you be careful to regulate your conduct, and at all times to consider the distressed and unfortunate, and to assist your fellow-man, and especially a Saint Luke, with your best counsel and good advice.

Hailing Sign.—Left hand covering the eyes, pressing the left temple.

What does this represent?

Weeping over the grave of St. Luke.

Second Sign.—Three fingers of the right hand closed, thumb touching the second joint of the third finger, with index finger pointing upwards.

What does this sign represent?

My hope and trust is on high.

Grip.—Place the palms of the left hands together; raise them.

Pass-word.—Calvary.

SIGNS AND PASS-WORDS TO BE USED BY MEMBERS WHEN IN DISTRESS.

These instructions must be given to every member at his initiation into the third degree, and be practiced at every degree meeting of the Council thereafter.

CAUTION.

Before rendering assistance to any person claiming to be a distressed member of a Council, working under the

jurisdiction of the Independent Order of St. Luke, the Council, or the member applied to, must exact from the distressed member sufficient proof that he or she is a financial member of the same, and in possession of a financial card of said Council, with the quarterly and travelling pass-word and a travelling certificate of the Order, as well as the address of the Worthy Chief and Recording Secretary, and in case of a doubt as to the correctness of the distressed member's statement, it shall be the duty of the Council to make all necessary inquiries of the individual as well as the officers of his Council.

Distress Sign, Pass-word, and Grip.—(This instruction must be given at the initiation of a member, and must be used only for the purpose and in the manner herein taught.)

Instruction to Member.—Should you be travelling, or in a strange place at any time, and desire to find a member of the Independent Order of St. Luke, you must make your signs and give your word in the following manner, and without attracting the attention of the public:

A.—Place the first three fingers of the left hand behind the left ear, and use these words: Am I equal to the task?

B.—The answer to this is given by passing the thumb of the left hand under the right eye three times and repeating the words, That is for you to prove.

A.—How shall I proceed to do so?

B.—By using the instructions that you have received. Are you travelling without assistance?

A.—No; we are all dependent upon our fellow-men.

B.—Under what influence do we journey?

A.—Love, purity, and charity to all mankind.

B.—Where were these lessons taught you?

A.—In a regular Council of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

B.—Of what Council are you a member?

A.—(In answer to this, give the name, number, and location of your Council.)

B.—In this cause we are united.

A.—Then give me the St. Luke grip.

Unite the left hands, with thumbs resting on the second joint of the third finger, and shake three times, repeating the words, Avoid slander; may truth and justice prevail with us.

The Council shall be closed in the following order:

D. C.—Our labors in this Council are about complete. Before we part I desire to know, Who is on the Lord's side?

Members answer.—Those who love him and keep his commandments.

The Degree Chief will give five raps, upon which all will rise and sing—

Who is on the Lord's side,
Who will serve the King,
Who will be His helpers,
Other lives to bring?

Prayer.

The Lord's-prayer by the Chaplain.

All the members respond, Thy name shall be praised forever and ever.

The Degree Chief declares the Council of the third degree closed.

FOURTH DEGREE.

(The officers of the Council of the fourth degree and the form of ceremony for opening shall be the same as in the third degree.)

The Degree Chief gives several raps with the gavel, after which he will say: Officers and members, I am desirous of opening the Council of the fourth degree. If there is any member present who has not received this degree, I will thank him to retire. The Junior Conductor having proved all present in possession of the fourth degree, the Degree Chief will give four raps with the gavel, when all present will rise and unite in singing—

L. M.

Before Jehovah's awful throne.

Ye nations bow with sacred joy ;
Know that the Lord is God alone ;
He can create and He destroy.

Wide as the world is Thy command,
Vast as eternity is Thy love ;
Firm as a rock Thy truth must stand.
When rolling years shall cease to move.

Prayer by Chaplain.

D. C.—Senior Conductor, you will please retire to the ante-room, and prepare the candidates for initiation into the mysteries of the fourth degree, provided they are qualified to receive the same.

After being satisfied that the candidate is duly qualified, the Senior Conductor will blindfold him and conduct him to the Council door, where he will instruct him to give four loud raps.

I. S.—Who is it that alarms the door of the Council of the fourth degree?

S. C.—A pilgrim who has labored with us in search of the cross, and having found it, now desires to continue his (or her) efforts with us for the advancement of the principles of love, purity, and charity among the children of men.

I. S.—Tarry here until your desire has been reported to our respected Degree Chief.

I. S.—Respected Degree Chief, a pilgrim who has labored with us in search of the cross desires to continue with us in the advancement of love, purity, and charity.

D. C.—Inside Sentinel, admit this pilgrim.

The Inside Sentinel admits the Senior Conductor, who enters with the candidate, and advances to the station of the Degree Chief.

Upon the entry of the Senior Conductor and candidate, all members present will rise and sing—

Precious promise, God hath given,
To the weary passer-by,
On the way from earth to heaven,
I will guide thee with mine eye.

At the conclusion of this verse, the Senior Conductor will introduce the candidate as follows:

Respected Degree Chief, through your consent, this pilgrim has come to unite himself with us in the advancement of the principles of love, purity, and charity.

D. C. (addressing candidate)—Pilgrim, before I shall consent for you to proceed with us in this degree, you must make me four solemn promises.

First. That you will become a better man (or woman, as the case may be).

Second. That your leisure moments will be spent in usefulness and the promotion of the principles of this Order.

Third. That you will not at any time or place knowingly, by word, deed, or act, speak disrespectfully of this Order, of any of its members, or of the families of the same.

Fourth. That you will strive, in addition to your former obligations, to be true and faithful to the laws and officers of the R. W. G. Council and the laws, rules, and regulations of this Council, and obedient and respectful to the officers to the same.

Candidate must answer, All of these I sincerely promise to obey.

D. C.—Pilgrim, since you are willing to learn, practice, and teach these truths, you are welcome to share our fraternal care and protection.

At this juncture the Senior Conductor will remove the blindfold and conduct the candidate to the altar, where the Degree Chief will require the candidate to kneel, place his right hand on the Bible and his left on his heart, and repeat after him the following obligation of the fourth degree:

I, A B, do most solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God and this Council of the fourth degree, that I will never divulge the secrets of this degree nor assist in conferring this degree except in a true and lawful Council, and that I will never write, print, stamp, paint, or in any other way make known any part or parts of this degree to any person or persons not entitled to receive the same.

I promise to be true and faithful to the Christian religion, to be strict and cautious over my actions so as not to wound the feeling or give offense to any member of this Order, and if in my power I will never see a member of this Order suffer or be wronged by another, binding myself under penalty of such punishment as the R. W. G. Council or this Council may see fit to inflict upon me.

(Candidate will kiss the Bible four times and rise.)

The candidate is then conducted to the ante-room by the Senior Conductor; the Conductor returning to the Council chamber, instructing the candidate to return as soon as he or she is ready.

The lights are all lowered, and as the candidate attempts to re-enter he is seized by several members and charged with being an enemy; his hands are chained or tied, and he is carried before the Degree Chief as an intruder, who has gained admission without the pass-word. Some will attempt to order him out, while others will advise that the candidate be given a chance to explain before the Degree Chief how he obtained admission.

Upon being presented, the Degree Chief will address the candidate as follows :

My brother (or sister), you have passed through another rough scene in life. This should be a lesson for you. The scene of this occasion is a representation of what often follows misunderstanding or the want of proper instruction or training.

How many of our fellow-men perish as victims for the want of some friendly advice and hand in the time of danger and distress. Thus you will see that it is well to be considerate and cautious. Remember in future never be

harsh to the unfortunate, the poor, or to those afflicted with the trials of life.

Remember, when the storms of life beat heavily against you and the clouds and the darkness are around and about you; the signs, pass-words, and the grips of this Order may bring you comfort.

I will therefore give you the sign, pass-word, and grip of this degree for your future protection.

(The members with the Degree Chief and candidate will advance to the altar, forming a circle with the Degree Chief and candidate in the centre.)

Sign.—Extending the right hand as to receive another. Answered by placing the forefingers of the left hand to the mouth with the thumb touching the chin.

Grip.—Take each other by the second fingers of the left hand, elevating the thumbs.

Pass-word.—Antioch.

All present will now form a circle and unite in singing—

C. M.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God whom we adore,
Be glory as it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

FIFTH DEGREE.

(The Council of this Degree shall be opened in the same form as that of the fourth degree.)

At the sound of the gavel, the members shall regail themselves in purple collars and aprons or rosettes, and observe a general silence while the word is being taken.

D. C.—Worthy Recording Secretary, have you any information from Palestine to present the Council of the fifth degree.

W. R. S.—I have, respected Degree Chief, Jerusalem has been taken by the Christians, and Baldwin is king of the same.

At four raps from the gavel, the members will rise and sing—

L. M.

Awake, Jerusalem, awake,
No longer in thy sins lie down,
The garment of salvation take,
Thy beauty and thy strength put on.

Shake off the dust that blinds thy sight
And hides the promise from thine eyes ;
Arise and struggle into light,
Thy great Deliverer calls, arise.

The Chaplain will read the first six verses of the 127th Psalm.

Prayer by Chaplain, all kneeling.

(After prayer all will resume their seats.)

D. C.—Worthy Recording Secretary, are there any candidates to be advanced to the fifth degree?

W. R. S.—Respected Degree Chief, there are. (Here state the number, and give the names of all.)

D. C.—Senior Conductor, you will please retire to the ante-room, and conduct the candidates.

The Senior Conductor retires, and after arranging the candidate (no blindfold to be used), advances to the door, and gives five loud raps in rapid succession.

I. S.—Respected Degree Chief, there is an alarm at our Council door.

D. C.—Inquire as the cause of such an alarm.

I. S. (To the Senior Conductor and candidates)—Who is it that alarms our Council?

S. C.—We have been engaged in the work of the cross, and having heard that the Christians are in possession of Jerusalem and that Baldwin is king of the same, we have come to break the fast and to rejoice with you and assist in establishing a temple of friendship, in order that dissension and strife may be done away with.

I. S.—Since this is your mission, you can enter.

The Senior Conductor enters with the candidate, passes to the altar, where he causes the candidate to kneel, while he addresses the Degree Chief as follows:

Respected Degree Chief, we have heretofore labored with you in the searches for the cross, and have journeyed the rough roads of life as our patron St. Luke did for our better enlightenment. We have learned that Jerusalem has been taken by the Christians, and that Baldwin has been proclaimed king, now as one who seeks for knowledge, I ask that you will confer upon this pilgrim the honor of the fifth degree.

D. C.—Your request can only be complied with after you have satisfied me that the candidate is in possession of all the degrees, from the first to the fourth, and this must be done by the words, signs, and the grips.

Here the Senior Conductor and the candidate work from the first to the fourth degree, and after this is finished the Degree Chief addresses them as follows:

Come, brothers and sisters, assemble around the altar and assist me in obligating these pilgrims to the fifth degree.

(Here the members leave their seats, and advancing

to the altar unite hands, forming a circle around the same.)

D. C. says :

My brother (or sister), you are now kneeling for the fifth time to the Independent Order of St. Luke, and it is my duty to inform you that this is one of the most serious oaths and obligations you have yet taken ; therefore, consider its importance before you enter upon the same.

I, A B, do solemnly declare in the presence of Almighty God and this sacred Council of the fifth degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke, dedicated to God, held forth to the memory of the holy St. Luke, to always obey my superiors in office, and strictly to observe all the laws, rules, and regulations of the Right Worthy Grand Council, also those of this Council of this degree, and whatever Council I shall hereafter become a member of ; I solemnly swear not to reveal any of the secrets of this degree to any person or persons of a lesser degree, and never be at the meetings of the making of one of this degree who has not received the preceding degrees in a just and lawful Council, working under the authority of the Right Worthy Grand Council of the Independent Order of Saint Luke, and not even then without a clear ballot.

I solemnly swear to be in no plots or conspiracies against a brother or sister of this Council, or against the Order in general. I sincerely promise and swear to stand by a brother or sister, to help him or her, to aid, and if necessary to shelter him or her from all approaching danger ; I also promise to give him or her employment and employ him or her in preference to all other

males or females, and in case of any sad accident (on hearing the cry of distress), I will fly to his or her relief; I also swear when I am taught the word and learn the sign and grip of this degree I will not give them except it be in the manner in which I was taught. God help and keep me steadfast in this my fifth obligation of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

(Kiss the book five times.)

My brother, you have most solemnly pledged yourself to associate with us in our labors to establish a temple of Friendship—that is, you have promised at all times and in all places to strive to teach this spirit to those with whom you may come in contact.

We desire to call your attention to the emblematic designs on our charter.

The first of these, and the most important, is the All-seeing eye. This emblem should direct our attention to the sublime truth that the eye of the divine providence is upon those that fear Him, upon those that hope in His mercy. His eyes are in every place, beholding the evil as well as the good.

The ancient temple is in representation of the church or temple which we are informed was erected by St. Helena on the spot where the Savior was crucified, while on the front of this temple is seen the cross, which has been explained to you.

This is also intended to impress upon you to so live that when your pilgrimage in this life is ended, your soul may find an everlasting rest in the spiritual temple—that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Let us therefore conduct ourselves as becomes the humble and faithful followers of Christ, and dedicate our

hearts a living temple to Him who died on Calvary's cross. Then we shall dwell with Him who has given the soul-cheering promise, "Him that overcometh I will make a pillar in the temple of my God."

The right-hand figure is Justice, holding a pair of scales in the right hand and a sword in the left hand. This emblem is to remind us of our duty to our Creator, to our fellow-man, and to ourselves. During your intercourse with your fellow-man in this world, should there arise strife between you, never act precipitately or rashly; or should you be appointed to settle matters of difference between members of this Order, you should deal impartially, giving justice to whom it is due; never do evil for evil. Justice has its demands, if we carefully weigh both sides of a question before giving a decision. It is the office of Justice to punish crime: therefore the sword is held to execute the offender. Never do anything to your fellow-man which you would be unwilling should be done to yourself, for remember this is the Golden Rule.

The left-hand figure here represents the monument of Saint Luke. It has been the practice from the earliest ages, and even to the present time, at the death of a relation or a friend who were esteemed for their acts of love and kindness, after depositing their mortal remains in its mother dust, to erect a monument over their graves to denote their last resting-place; therefore, the monument representing a pillar partly covered with a mantle, is erected to St. Luke in token of appreciation, love, and respect to his memory for many great and cherished qualities. The figure representing Memory, is seen standing by the pillar in a mournful attitude, bearing the sum-

mer's heat and winter's cold ; still it stands, regardless of passing events, answering, at the same time, the end of its erection—to constantly remind us of our living and conducting ourselves with that consistency that we may be saved in the world to come. It should also be our highest aim to inculcate love, purity, and charity, and cause those with whom we may come in contact with during our lives to erect a living monument of love and respect, which should leave a cherished remembrance of our good deportment in the hearts of all mankind, especially in every true St. Luke.

You will discover that the cross is emblazoned in bold colors on the face of our charter, and at the base of the cross you see the clasped hands. These are striking emblems.

Upon the cross the redemption of man was secured, and thereon the Christian religion is founded.

The united hands are to signify union and to teach us to be united in faith, works, and prayers that strife and discord may be obliterated, and to hope for the time to come when all nations, kindred, tongues, and peoples shall be bound together through faith in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

I will take pleasure now in giving you instruction in the signs, pass-word, and grip of the fifth degree.

Sign.—Stretch out both arms at full length.

Answer to Sign.—Place the right hand on the left shoulder.

Pass-word.—Leah.

Grip.—The grip is formed by interlacing the two first fingers of the left hand, with thumbs touching, pronouncing the word Leah.

SIXTH DEGREE.

The Council of the sixth degree shall consist of the following officers:

Degree Chief, Assistant Degree Chief, Chaplain, Recording Secretary, Senior Conductor, Junior Conductor, Outside Sentinel, and Inside Sentinel.

The Council of the sixth degree shall be arranged so as to represent the city of Jerusalem. Painted curtains or veils made of black or green, and evergreen in boxes in which the cross is placed should be used, and boards or any other more convenient articles should be made to represent the roadway leading to and around the hills about Jerusalem.

In no case shall a member while conferring this or any other degree of this Order act harsh toward, or do the candidate any bodily injury.

FORM FOR OPENING THE SIXTH DEGREE COUNCIL.

The Degree Chief assumes the station, and gives several raps with the gavel, calling the members present to order, after which he will say: Officers, please take your stations, and assist me in instructing the candidates in the sixth degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

The members respond: We will assist you.

D. C.—Junior Conductor, you will please prove all present by the pass-word of the sixth degree.

After examining all present, the Junior will report the result of the examination to the Degree Chief.

If there be any member present without the pass-word,

then some other member present who knows that the member in question has received the sixth degree, may vouch for the member, but in no case shall this be done upon hearsay. A member vouching for another must know beyond a doubt that such a person has received the degree in question, and unless this proof is established, the member must be excused from the Council.

After all members present have been proven, the Degree Chief will give six raps, when all will rise and unite in singing the following or some other appropriate hymn—

Almighty Jehovah,
Descend now and fill
This Council with thy glory,
Our hearts with good-will.

Preside at our meetings,
Assist us to find
True pleasure in teaching
Good-will to mankind.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

The Degree Chief and members in this degree shall see that every member is clothed in a purple collar, trimmed with yellow with a white or gilt cross attached at the appendix of the same.

(The candidate is allowed to remain in the Council chamber.)

The Degree Chief, on assuming the station, will wear a crown, and robe trimmed with scarlet and yellow.

(Give six raps, calling the assemblage to order.)

D. C.—Brethren (or sisters), it being time, we will now proceed to open the Council of the sixth degree.

Senior and Junior Conductors, you will please require from every person present the sign and pass-word of the sixth degree, and if there be any present who cannot do so, you will please bring such person or persons before me, so that the laws and regulations of the Order may be enforced.

At this juncture some member must complain, saying to the Degree Chief that it will be impossible to give the sign and pass-word of the sixth degree without violating the laws of the Order, as there are strangers present.

(The Degree Chief rising, gives several raps with the gavel, at which all the members will rise.)

D. C.—I have summoned you before me, and I hereby command you to search this Council, and if there be any strangers present, bring him before me that an investigation as to the cause of this intrusion may be made.

The members will form two lines, faces inward, and through this line the Assistant Degree Chief and the candidates must pass. On their way through, the members must seize the candidates, some charging them with intrusion, some with being an enemy, some with being a traitor, while others will express themselves as to the punishment such action deserves.

It must be made to appear that it is with great difficulty the candidates are brought out of this confusion.

The Degree Chief must give several raps with the gavel, but at the command, Order, all must obey promptly.

D. C.—What is the cause of this confusion among you?

Members.—We find strangers among us without the sign and pass-word of the sixth degree.

The Senior Conductor advances to the candidate in a

hasty and excited manner, grasping him by the arm, saying, I have been in search for you. Our Degree Chief demands that you appear before him to answer for your intrusion among us. (With this the candidate is carried roughly to the Degree Chief's station.)

D. C. (in a stern voice)—What means your presence here in this Council without the sign and pass-word of the sixth degree? Do you mean to intrude in our ranks and assume a station without the qualifications? What business prompted you to come before this Council in this unreasonable manner, and have you considered the responsibility of your action?

(Some members will hastily inquire as to the penalty for such an offense, while others will say what the intruder deserves.)

A. D. C. (addressing Degree Chief)—I don't believe this (or these) strangers are enemies or impostors. I think he (or they) have formed a favorable opinion of the cause in which we are engaged and desires to unite with us. Let's avoid any harsh treatment, for it may be someone present who will vouch for the stranger (or strangers).

D. C.—I can't be held responsible for what befalls the stranger; Senior Conductor, you will please see that the laws of this Council are enforced and that the penalty for the offense is inflicted.

(The Assistant Degree Chief will hurriedly conduct the candidate to the ante-room.)

After arranging the candidate the Senior Conductor will alarm the door of the Council Chamber by giving six raps.

I. S.—Degree Chief, there is an alarm at our door.

D. C.—Inquire into the cause of the same.

I. S.—Who comes here?

S. C.—A pilgrim seeking the six mysteries of the sixth degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

I. S.—Please wait until our Degree Chief has been informed of his desire.

I. S.—Respected Degree Chief, the alarm is made by a pilgrim seeking the six mysteries of the sixth degree of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

D. C.—Inside Sentinel, please admit the pilgrim.

(The Inside Sentinel admits the pilgrim, who enters with the Senior Conductor, who conducts the candidate to the altar.)

S. C.—Respected Degree Chief, I present you this pilgrim, who was a short while ago charged with being an intruder.

In attempting to carry out our laws, I found that his (or her) motives were pure, and that he comes to enlist with this Council for the promotion of love, purity, and charity.

D. C.—Senior Conductor, if this person (or persons) are really pilgrims, and their desires true and their motives sincere, we shall be pleased to enlist him as one of our members.

We want only true and faithful followers; those who are not afraid to face the hardships and the scorns of the world.

If this pilgrim journeys with us he may at times have to endure severe trials. There have been times in our pilgrimage when it seemed as though our friends had turned against us, and perhaps it may be so with this

pilgrim ; yet, if he is determined and willing we will admit him.

Candidate (prompted by the Senior Conductor).—I am ready and willing.

D. C.—Before proceeding on our journey I would advise that this pilgrim, with each of our members, start under the protection of the sign and pass-word of the sixth degree, so that in future you will be enabled to distinguish your friends from your enemies. (Addressing the candidate)—My brother, I hope this action on the part of the Council will cause you always to attend the meetings of the Council and to keep fresh in your memory your obligation, the signs and words, so that in case you be placed in such a strait again you will be able to extricate yourself honorably. (Candidate kneels and takes following obligation :

I, A B, in the presence of Almighty God and the members of the sixth degree here assembled do most solemnly swear and promise, in addition to all my former obligations, to obey all the laws, rules, and regulations of the Order, and never to reveal any of the mysteries of the sixth degree. I will always protect the interest of the Order and this Council and of the members thereof.

I promise to attend the sick and distressed at all times, and to extend the hand of charity whenever it is required and it is in my power so to do. I furthermore promise to protect a member of this Order, and will use my influence for the promotion of the members of this Order, both morally and socially.

I will never see a member suffer without rendering him assistance. I will never defame the character of a mem-

ber nor expose the same except in such cases as the laws of the Order require. Whenever I detect that a member of this Order is about to make a mistake I will go to such a member and point out to him this fault, ever keeping the Golden Rule in view, hoping as I mete out justice to others in this world the same may be meted out to me. May God help me, keep me, and protect me in performing the same. (Kiss the Bible six times and rise.)

Senior Conductor will retire with the candidate to the ante-room ; after making necessary arrangements they will return to the Council chamber, when the following may be sung:

Ye fearful saints fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour ;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

D C.—My brother (or sister) you have solemnly pledged yourself to us for the sixth time to be true and faithful to the Independent Order of Saint Luke. I hope you will try to live and act in strict compliance with your oath and obligations, and ever try to inculcate love, purity, and charity toward all mankind, but especially to a member of this Order.

I shall now take pleasure in explaining the principles or motto of our Order.

When you received the fifth degree, the temple with Justice and the pillar with Memory were then explained to you.

The three principles of our Order are Love, Purity, and Charity.

Love is represented by a flying seraph, holding in its arms the emblems of abundance, or horn of plenty, from which she scatters flowers of affection, This teaches us to work in accordance with the divine love, for without love there can be no good works. Think well of this holy command, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Purity is represented by the flowing fountain gushing forth its crystal streams, unceasingly affording drink to the thirsty, and its beauty giving pleasure to them that gaze thereon.

So let our acts of benevolence be actuated by the purest motives, and bestowing them on each and every needy one in a manner to promote their welfare, thereby setting an example for our brothers and sisters of lesser degrees and the uninitiated to gaze on our good works with admiration, also making ourselves happy recipients of the holy promise, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

Charity is represented by a being of heavenly appearance with arms extended ; with the left hand she draws the orphan to her bosom, while with the right hand placed on its head she pronounces a solemn benediction.

It is founded on love and based on good-will to all mankind ; it extends the arm of pity and relief to the poor and needy and assistance to the fallen ; it pours the oil of consolation into the wounded heart ; it shelters and befriends the stranger in distress ; it is a husband to the widow and a father to the orphan.

So should our principles be founded on charitable love,

and our hearts encompassed with good-will ; never giving ear to the subtle voice of slander against a brother or sister, friend or enemy.

Our ear should ever be open to the cry of distress of a brother or sister of this Order ; we should cherish the orphan and sympathize with the widow. In short, charity teaches us individually—

To feel another's woe,
To hide the faults I see,
That mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me.

If we follow the injunction of charity we will thereby fulfill the command enjoined on us by the Apostle Paul : “Above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectedness.”

(The Degree Chief will give the sign, word, and grip.)

Sign of the Sixth Degree.—Fold both hands across the breast, crossing the thumbs.

Grip.—Interlocking the fingers of the left hand, crossing the thumbs. One says, Strive ; the other says, For Zion.

Pass-word.—Macedonia.

Closing Hymn (Old Hundred):

L. M.

Come, Christian brethren, ere we part,
Join every voice and every heart;
One solemn hymn to God we raise,
One final song of grateful praise.

Brothers, we here may meet no more,
But there is yet a happier shore,
And there, released from toil and pain,
Dear brethren, we shall meet again.

D. C.—Members, I thank you for your aid and assistance, and hope that we shall have your presence at our future degree meetings.

(The Degree Chief gives six raps with the gavel, calling the Council up.)

Benediction pronounced by the Chaplain and the Council declared closed.

PAST WORTHY CHIEF'S HONORS.

RULE 1.—This is not a degree, but a reward of honor, and can only be obtained by members of the Independent Order of St. Luke, as provided for in the General Laws and Rituals, to wit :

A member to receive the title and honors of Past Worthy Chief must serve one regular term in office of Vice and Worthy Chief, but in all cases where new Councils are instituted the Worthy Chief, Vice-Chief, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer must receive the title and honors of P. W. C.; but in no other case than this shall this honor be conferred upon members until they shall have actually served in the offices as above stated, or as per the General Laws of the Order.

RULE 2.—When this honor is conferred upon a Worthy Chief or a member as a reward of honor, the officers filling the several stations shall all be Past Worthy Chiefs, and none but Past Worthy Chiefs shall be present.

RULE 3.—At the institution of a new Council, the Committee shall see that the title and honor is conferred upon the Worthy Chief, Vice-Chief, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, as is provided for in the General Laws of the Order.

RULE 4.—The honoring of a Past Worthy Chief shall take place previous to the time appointed for the installation of officers of the Council.

HONORING A PAST WORTHY CHIEF.

When all are in readiness, the Worthy Chief or member that is to be honored shall be conducted to the Degree Chief of the Degree Council and presented as follows :

S. C.—Respected Degree Chief, I present you Brother (or Sister) —, who has been duly elected, installed, and served the required time as Most Respected Worthy Chief, of — Council, No. —, and now waits to be invested with the honors of Past Worthy Chief [for the faithful performance of those duties which must be performed by every Most Respected Worthy Chief before receiving this honor], that he (or she) may enjoy the rights and privileges appertaining to that office.

(When the honors are conferred at the opening of a new Council upon a Worthy Chief, Vice-Chief, Recording Secretary, and Worthy Treasurer, or as a reward of merit, as provided for in the General Laws, all contained in brackets will be omitted.)

The Degree Chief, or the officer conducting the installation, says :

D. C.—My brother (or sister), I congratulate you upon this mark of honor and rank of distinction in your Council and the Independent Order of St. Luke.

I hope the several obligations you have taken and the degrees conferred have caused you to become more familiar with the principles of the Order, that you may become wiser and better prepared to practice and teach

those of the Order, as well as the uninitiated, that the power and influence of the Order over its members, if adhered to, will be a present help to them in time of need.

By this course of action on your part, those with whom you come in contact will learn that Charity is the bond of perfection.

D. C. (to candidate).—Do you, in addition to all your former obligations, promise to obey all laws, rules, and regulations of the R. W. G. Council as well as your subordinate Council?

Candidate.—I do.

D. C.—Do you promise to respect the officers and members of this Order, and do all that is in your power by words, deeds, and actions to lessen their sorrows and misfortunes in life?

Candidate.—I do.

D. C.—My brother, we are about to confer upon you the honor of Past Worthy Chief. This is a title we hope that you will always prove worthy of. We trust that you shall live long to enjoy the rights and privileges of the Order, and that your influence, with the experience you have had in your Council, blended with the knowledge, wisdom, and means of the other Past Worthy Chiefs and members, will tend to make our Order one whose influence will be sought after and appreciated by the community at large. To prove that you are a Past Worthy Chief, I will give you the sign and word of the Past Worthy Chief's honors.

D. C.—What do the principles of the Independent Order of St. Luke teach us?

Answer : They teach us to unite in love, to be pure in

heart, and charitable to all mankind, and especially to a St. Luke.

D. C.—How may we inculcate these duties?

Answer: By searching and adhering to the sacred Scriptures and relieving each other in sickness and distress.

D. C.—Where were these lessons taught you?

Answer: In my Council.

D. C.—What constitutes a Council.

Answer: Twelve officers and an unlimited number of members faithfully adhering to the laws and principles of the Order.

D. C.—What part of the labors in your Council did you perform?

Answer: I presided, Worthy Chief, in the east, and as a reward for my service I passed from the right to left side of the station.

D. C.—Give me your sign.

Sign: Close the fingers of the right hand with thumb pressing the side of the second joint of the first finger, giving three motions as if using the gavel.

Pass-word.—Joshua.

KEY TO PASS-WORD.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

F R V E T W Y U S A D I G C L O H J K B N P M Q Z X

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